

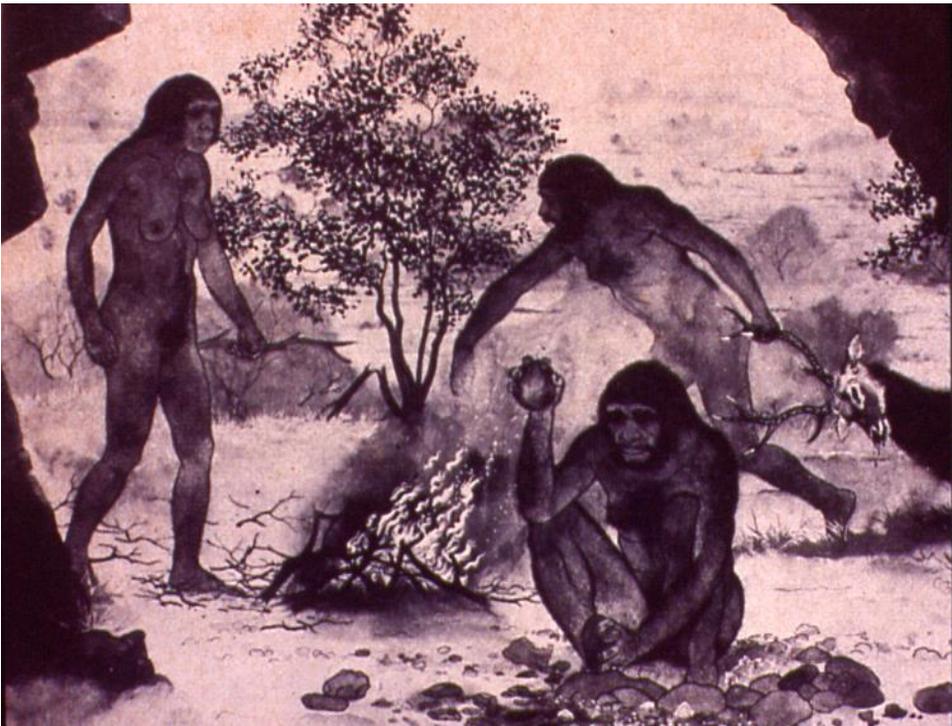
Push-me-pull-you

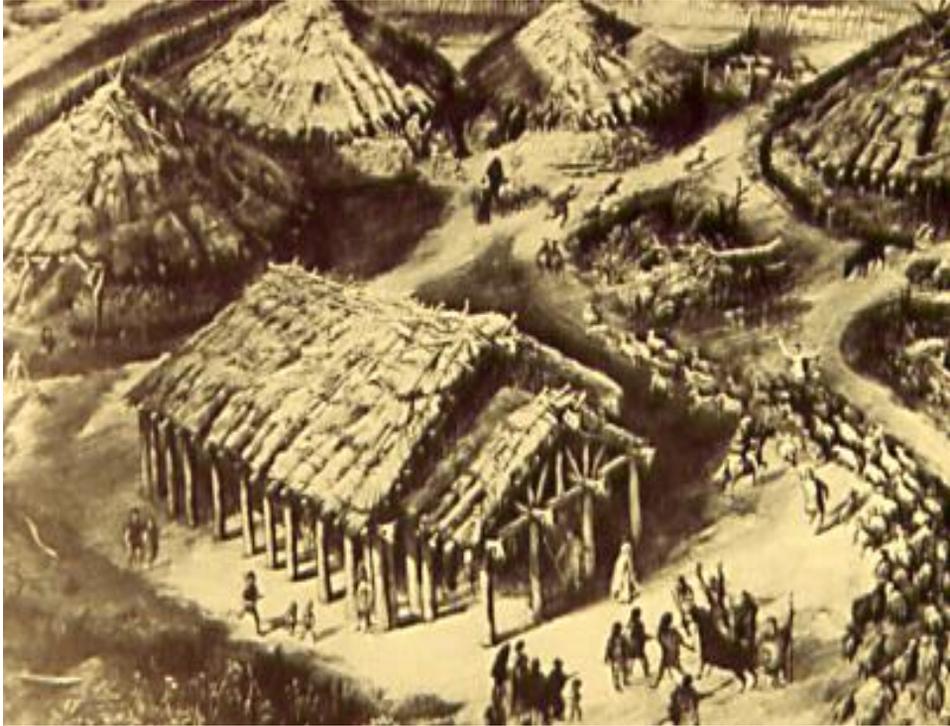


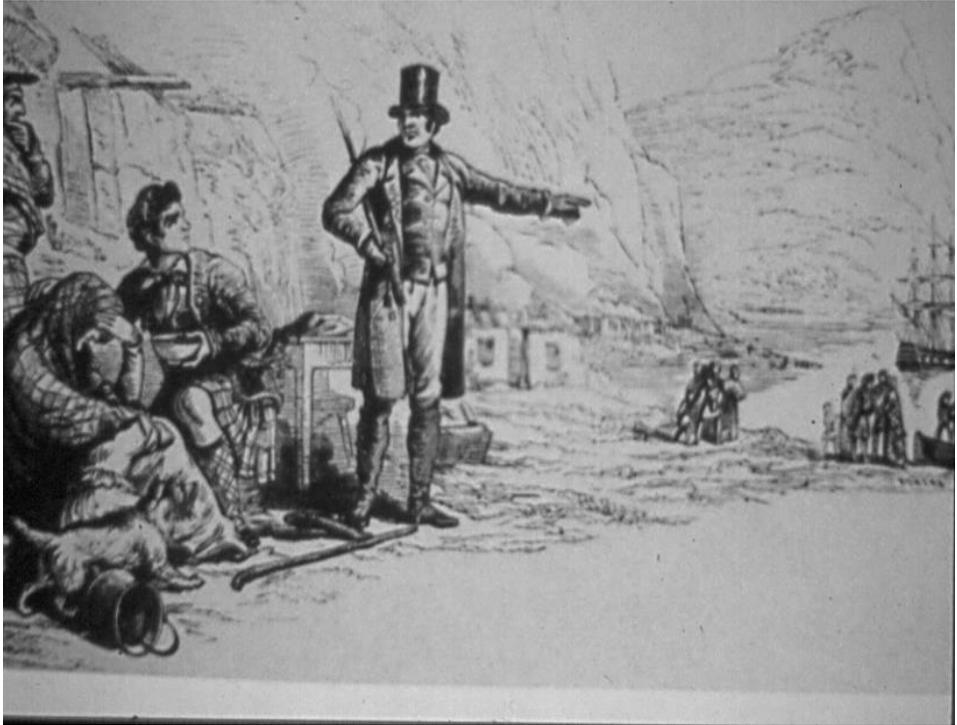
Forest Devolution in Scotland

Bill Ritchie and Mandy Haggith
bill@worldforests.org













By early 20th century

- ⌘ Less than 5% tree cover
- ⌘ Only 1.4% ancient semi-natural woodland
- ⌘ 60% of the land owned by 1250 people



By late 20th century

- ⌘ 16% tree cover
- ⌘ 2.5% semi-natural woodland
- ⌘ 60% of land still owned by 1250 people

...then things began to change...

Push down of power

1991: Crofter Forestry Act

1994: Forests and People in Rural Areas

1997: Community Land Unit

1999: Devolution

2000: Forests and People Panel

2003: Land Reform Act



Push-me-pull-you

1985: Scottish Crofters Union

1987: Highlands & Islands Forum

1989: Treslaig Crofters

1991: Crofter Forestry Act

1992: Assynt Crofters Trust

1994: Forests and People in Rural Areas

1996: Culag, Abriachan & Cairnhead

1997: Community Land Unit

1998: Laggan

1999: Devolution

2000: Forests and People Panel

2002: Community Woodlands Association

2003: Land Reform Act

How local revolutions influence push down of power



- By creating breakthroughs and bringing about something that was perceived to be impossible
thereby firing **the collective imagination**
 - By being revolutionary and creatively challenging the status quo
thereby releasing **energy**
 - By solving big problems (such as land inequity, bad land management, rural depopulation)
thereby spreading **optimism**
-

How local revolutions influence push down of power

- By achieving unexpected outcomes, e.g. education, social housing, better environmental management thereby gaining **credibility**
 - By being documented and used as evidence and proof of concept to those in power thereby developing **confidence**
 - By creating an impact on public opinion by working with newspapers, TV and radio thereby generating **political will**
-

Agencies should respond

- ⌘ by listening to local people and allowing them to shape the process of decentralisation
 - ⌘ by addressing institutional inertia and changing the corporate culture
 - ⌘ by building local community capacity for taking power and supporting grassroots networks
-

Lessons from Scotland

- ⌘ Revolutionary 'treeroots' activity that pulls power down to the local level can shape the decentralisation process.
 - ⌘ Communities should not be treated as passive recipients of devolved power pushed down from the centre.
 - ⌘ Power shifts are evolutionary, involving **push-me-pull-you** interactions.
-



Decentralisation



- ⌘ From UK government to Scottish Executive.
 - ⌘ By making forest governance more participatory.
 - ⌘ Through a process of land reform.
-